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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

15 SEPT. 2003

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

Zacco Norway AS
P.O. Box 765, Sentrum
N-0106 Oslo
Norge

**NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT
OF DEMAND BY COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rules 59.3(e) and 61.1(b), first sentence
and Administrative Instructions, Section 601(a))

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

11 -09- 2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

E29072 JFL/ANY

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/N003/00067

International filing date (day/month/year)

21-02-2003

Priority date (day/month/year)

22-02-2002

Applicant

Vensafe ASA
et al

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority considers the following date as the date of receipt of the demand for international preliminary examination of the international application:

11-09-2003

2. This date of receipt is:

- ☒ the actual date of receipt of the demand by this Authority (Rule 61.1(b)).
☐ the actual date of receipt of the demand on behalf of this Authority (Rule 59.3(e)).
☐ the date on which this Authority has, in response to the invitation to correct defects in the demand (Form PCT/IPEA/404), received the required corrections.

3. ☐ **ATTENTION:** That date of receipt is **AFTER** the expiration of 19 months from the priority date. Consequently, the election(s) made in the demand does (do) not have the effect of postponing the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)). Therefore, the acts for entry into the national phase must be performed within 20 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 22). For details, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

- ☐ (If applicable) This notification confirms the information given by telephone, facsimile transmission or in person on:

4. Only where paragraph 3 applies, a copy of this notification has been sent to the International Bureau.

Best Available Copy

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/
Patent- och registreringsverket
Box 5055
S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88

Telex
17978
PATOREG-S

Authorized officer

Riitta Vartiainen

Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

KOPI til orientering

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving office use only

PCT/NO 03 / 000 67

International Application No.

21 FEB. 2003

(21.02.03)

International Filing Date



PATENTSTYRET

Styret for det industrielle rettsvern

PCT International application

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) E29072 JFL/ANY

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION	
A SYSTEM FOR SALE OF CONSUMER GOODS	
Box No. II APPLICANT <input type="checkbox"/> This person is also inventor	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)	
VENS SAFE ASA Bruket 31 N-1621 GRESSVIK, NORWAY	
Telephone No.	
Facsimile No.	
Teleprinter No.	
Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:
NO	NO
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box	
Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)	
SCOTT, Nicholas Arthur Schürbusch 14 D32429 MINDEN, GERMANY	
This person is:	
<input type="checkbox"/> applicant only	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor	
<input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)	
Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:
GB	DE
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box	
<input type="checkbox"/> Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.	
Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	
The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agent <input type="checkbox"/> common representative	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)	
LANGFELDT, Jens Fr. C. ZACCO NORWAY AS P.O.Box 765 Sentrum N-0106 OSLO, NORWAY	
Telephone No.	
22 91 04 00	
Facsimile No.	
22 91 05 00	
Teleprinter No.	
Agent's registration No. with the Office	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.	

Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

Mark the applicable check-boxes below; at least one must be marked.

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a):

Regional Patent

- ☒ **AP ARIPO Patent:** GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, MZ Mozambique, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZM Zambia, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)
- ☒ **EA Eurasian Patent:** AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **EP European Patent:** AT Austria, BE Belgium, BG Bulgaria, CH & LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, CZ Czech Republic, DE Germany, DK Denmark, EE Estonia, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, SK Slovakia, TR Turkey, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **OA OAPI Patent:** BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GQ Equatorial Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE United Arab Emirates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AG Antigua and Barbuda | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OM Oman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PH Philippines |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria +util.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BZ Belize | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH & LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TN Tunisia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CO Colombia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR Costa Rica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TZ United Republic of Tanzania + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA Morocco | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM Dominica | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DZ Algeria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EC Ecuador +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZA South Africa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MZ Mozambique +U.mod. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZM Zambia + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe + U.mod. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia +U.mod. | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana +U.mod. | | |

Check-boxes below reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

- ☒ VC Saint Vincent... ☐
- ☒ SC Seychelles... ☐

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country or Member of WTO	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 22.Feb. 2002 (22.02.02)	20020893	NO		
item (2) 25.Feb. 2002 (25.02.02)	20020905	NO		
item (3) 10.April 2002 (10.04.02)	20021679	NO		
item (4)				
item (5)				

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

☒ all items ☐ item (1) ☐ item (2) ☐ item (3) ☐ item (4) ☐ item (5) ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)):

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA / . SE

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following declarations are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

Number of
declarations

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i) | Declaration as to the identity of the inventor | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv) | Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America) | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v) | Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty | : |

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

<p>This international application contains:</p> <p>(a) in paper form, the following number of sheets :</p> <p>request (including declaration sheets) : 4</p> <p>description (excluding sequence listings and/or tables related thereto) : 8</p> <p>claims : 4</p> <p>abstract : 1</p> <p>drawings : 1</p> <p>Sub-total number of sheets : 18</p> <p>sequence listings : </p> <p>tables related thereto : </p> <p>(for both, actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form; see (c) below)</p> <p>Total number of sheets : 18</p> <p>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> only in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(i))</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listings</p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto</p> <p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> also in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(ii))</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listings</p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto</p> <p>Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which are contained the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sequence listings:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto:</p> <p>(additional copies to be indicated under items 9(ii) and/or 10(ii), in right column)</p>	<p>This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of each item):</p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet : 1</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original separate power of attorney : 1</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> original general power of attorney : </p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:</p> <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature : </p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> translation of international application into (language):</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material : </p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listings in computer readable form (indicate type and number of carriers)</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter only (and not as part of the international application) : </p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(i) or (c)(i) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter : </p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the sequence listings mentioned in left column : </p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> tables in computer readable form related to sequence listings (indicate type and number of carriers)</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quater) only (and not as part of the international application) : </p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(ii) or (c)(ii) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quater) : </p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the tables mentioned in left column : </p> <p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify): ... Copy of Official Action : 1</p> <p>X Confirm. of change of name of agent 1</p>	<p>Number of items</p>
---	---	------------------------

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: fig. 1

Language of filing of the international application: NORWEGIAN

Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

Jens F.C. Langfeldt, patent agent

For receiving Office use only		<p>2. Drawings:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> received:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not received:</p>
1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application: 21 FEB. 2003 (21.02.03)		
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:		
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):		
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / SE	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

PCT

POWER OF ATTORNEY

(for an international application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 90.4)

KOPI

The undersigned applicant(s) (Names should be indicated as they appear in the request):

VENS SAFE ASA, Bruket 31, N-1621 GRESSVIK, Norway

Nicholas Arthur Scott, Schürbusch 14, D-32429 MINDEN, Germany

hereby appoints (appoint) the following person as:

☒ agent

☐ common representative

Name and address

(family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

Jens Fr.C.Langfeldt
Bryns Zacco AS
P.O. Box 765 Sentrum
N-0106 OSLO, NORWAY

to represent the undersigned before

☒ all the competent International Authorities

☐ the International Searching Authority only

☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority only

in connection with the international application identified below:

Title of the invention: A SYSTEM FOR SALE OF CONSUMER GOODS


Applicant's or agent's file reference: E29072 JFL/ANY

International application number (if already available):

filed with the following Office the Norwegian Patent Office as receiving Office
and to make or receive payments on behalf of the undersigned.

Signature of the applicant(s) (where there are several applicants, each of them must sign; next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs, if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request or this power):


VENS SAFE ASA Adm. director


Nicholas Arthur Scott

Date: 22/9/02

PCT/IPEA/SE
Patent och Registreringsverket
Box 5055
S-102 42 Stockholm
Sverige

Fax: 0046 8 667 7288

10 September 2003

Your ref.: PCT/NO03/00067
Our ref.: E29072 JFL/IFO

International Patent application No. PCT/NO03/00067 – Vensafe ASA et al.

Dear Sirs,

In accordance with PCT article 34 we hereby forward a revised set of claims.

New claim 1 is a combination of original claim 1 with feature a) and incorporating original claim 2, and with feature b) omitted.

New claim 2 is original claim 1 with feature a) omitted and stating in the feature b) part the additional highlighting (underlined):

"a substitute token for the non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the check out unit..."

New claims 3-15 correspond to original claims 2-14.

With regard to the references cited the applicants have the following remarks.

US 3.824.544 relates to a merchandizing arrangement where a payment station has encoding means for encoding a check with an identifying code at a first location on the check and with a code denoting an article of merchandise at a second location of the check, and a dispensing station having decoding means and article storage and vending means.

It is considered claim 1 as now defined, as well as claim 2 are patentably distinct, novel and carry inventive step over the SIMJIAN ('544) reference.

WO 94/01838 has a card carrying all information. No communication appears to be present between the dispensing means and checkout unit (payment station). The risk of fake cards being usable is present.

US 4.767.917 disclose an arrangement enabling storage of information provided on a magnetic stripe.

Typically a user may in storage mode store his credit card information in the specific automatic vending machine, and when later inserting the card for purchase of goods, there is applied a charge to billed from the credit card company. There is no link between a payment station or checkout unit and the vending machine. Theft of a card may be a problem because goods may be readily deliverable by the vending machine unless the user has to use a PIN-code. A typical disadvantage is that the credit card is to be used only on a specific vending machine, unless credit card information is read into several machines.

Further disadvantage is that the vending machine needs to have a personal identification of the user through the use of credit card.

US 5.431.250 is not a particularly relevant reference, nor is WO 98/55968.

WO 96/12254 (belonging now to the assignee VENS SAFE AS) is considered to be the closest reference. The independent claims are accordingly delimited over PLANKE (WO 96/12254).

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined has novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

Yours faithfully
Zacco Norway AS

Jens F. C. Langfeldt



Encl.

2 ex. revised set of claims

PCT/IPEA/SE
Patent och Registreringsverket
Box 5055
S-102 42 Stockholm
Sverige

Fax: 0046 8 667 7288
W

04 April 2004

Your ref.: PCT/NO03/00067
Our ref.: E29072 JFL/IFO

International Patent application No. PCT/NO03/00067 – Vensafe ASA et al.

Dear Sirs,

In accordance with PCT article 34 we filed through letter of 10 September 2003 a revised set of claims.


In claim 2, an error has been spotted. The line reading "that the validated token is processing in the checkout unit, a substitute token for the" should correctly read:

".... that the validated token is a substitute token for the...."

A complete set of claims is attached. The other claims are unamended.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined has novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

Yours faithfully
Zacco Norway AS



Jens F. C. Langfeldt

Encl.
2 ex. revised set of claims

P a t e n t c l a i m s

1.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
5 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
10 customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which
compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator
device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication
15 device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence,
characterised in
that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
- a randomly generated transaction code,
20 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
non-validated token; and
that the validated token is the non-validated token provided with the transaction code
through processing in the checkout unit, said device for providing the non-validated
25 token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which
a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof

2.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
30 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
35 customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which

compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence, characterised in

- 5 that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
 - a randomly generated transaction code,
 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
- 10 non-validated token; and

that the validated token is a substitute token for the non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the checkout unit from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens.

15

3.

A system as disclosed in claim 2, characterised in that said device for providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on

20 activation thereof.

4.

A system as disclosed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the non-validated token bears information that is related to the article type.

25

5.

A system as disclosed in claim 4, characterised in that the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label

30 readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code.

6.

A system as disclosed in claim 5, characterised in that the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of:

35 animation of the article, article name, article price, a unique token number.

7.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the transaction code provided on the validated token is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, a pre-programmed IC chip.

10 8.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-7, characterised in that communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- 15 - ultrasound transmission,
 - electro-optical transmission,
 - rf transmission,
 - bluetooth transmission
 - wired transmission,
 20 - transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

9.

- 25 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-8, characterised in that the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising an article type information scanner device, wherein the said scanner device is for communicating said information to the encoder device, the said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device
 30 via said token encoder device, wherein the said token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the said encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a printer for the issue of the validated article token, and a device for transmitting said communication to the article dispensing device.

10.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-9,
characterised in

that the transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device

5 through machine reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the
group consisting of:

- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- 10 - an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader,
- an rf label code reader.

11.

15 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-10,

characterised in that the article dispensing device has a manually operated keypad,
keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable transaction code on the
validated token into the comparator unit.

20 12.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-11,

characterised in that the first transaction code which is communicated to the article
dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are
the same codes or codes that are related to each other, e.g., complementary codes,

25 symmetrical codes or unsymmetrical codes.

13.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 3, characterised in
that the selection panel is a touch screen.

30

14.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in

that the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be
dispensed.

35

15.

A system as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in
that transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout
unit applicable to the packaging, transmittable to the packaging, or is provided by
5 uncovering an area on the packaging that bears the transaction code.

This sheet is not of and does not count as a sheet of the international application.

PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Request

For receiving Office use only

PCT/NO 03/00067

International Application No.

21 FEB. 2003

(21.02.03)

Date stamp of the receiving Office

Applicant's or agent's
file reference

E29072 JFL/ANY

Applicant

VENSAFE ASA

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE

500

T

2. SEARCH FEE

7.070

S

International search to be carried out by ISA/SE

(If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the name of the Authority which is chosen to carry out the international search.)

3. INTERNATIONAL FEE

Basic Fee

Where items (b) and/or (c) of Box No. IX apply, enter Sub-total number of sheets } 18

Where items (b) and (c) of Box No. IX do not apply, enter Total number of sheets }

☐ first 30 sheets 3.560 ☐

☐ number of sheets in excess of 30 x fee per sheet = ☐

☐ additional component (only if sequence listings and/or tables related thereto are filed in computer readable form under Section 801(a)(i), or both in that form and on paper, under Section 801(a)(ii)):

400 x fee per sheet = ☐

Add amounts entered at b1, b2 and b3 and enter total at B 3.560 B

Designation Fees

The international application contains designations.

number of designation fees payable (maximum 5) x amount of designation fee = 3.850 D

Add amounts entered at B and D and enter total at I 7.410 I

(Applicants from certain States are entitled to a reduction of 75% of the international fee. Where the applicant is (or all applicants are) so entitled, the total to be entered at I is 25% of the sum of the amounts entered at B and D.)

900 P

4. FEE FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT (if applicable)

5. TOTAL FEES PAYABLE

15.880

TOTAL

Add amounts entered at T, S, I and P, and enter total in the TOTAL box

☐ The designation fees are not paid at this time.

MODE OF PAYMENT

☐ authorization to charge
deposit account (see below)

☐ postal money order

☐ cash

☐ coupons

☒ cheque

☐ bank draft

☐ revenue stamps

☐ other (specify):

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE (OR CREDIT) DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

(This mode of payment may not be available at all receiving Offices)

☐ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above.

☐ (This check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the receiving Office so permit) Authorization to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above.

☐ Authorization to charge the fee for priority document.

Receiving Office: RO/

Deposit Account No.:

Date:

Name:

Signature:

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E29072 JFL/JOB	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/NO2003/000067	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21.02.2003	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.02.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G07C 7/00, G07F 7/08 // G06F 153:00		
Applicant Vensafe ASA et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:
 - ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 11.09.2003	Date of completion of this report 29.04.2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 667 72 88	Authorized officer Inger Löfving / JA A Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☒ This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☒ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1 - 8 as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* 9 - 13 received by this Authority on 13.04.2004

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

pages 1 as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claimed invention relates to a system for sale of consumer goods, wherein the system comprises a device for providing a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise.

Cited document in the International Search report of 26-5-2003:

D1: US 3824544 A
D2: WO 9612254 A1
D3: WO 9855968 A1
D4: WO 9401838 A1
D5: US 4767917 A
D6: US 5431250 A

The amended claim of date 13-04-2004 differs from all previously known documents in the fact that neither of them comprises the feature that a validated token is a non-validated token provided with a transaction code through processing in the checkout unit, said device for providing a non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof, or that the validated token is a substitute token issued by the checkout unit.

The system for sale of consumer goods differs from all relevant documents and is therefore considered to have novelty.

The invention is not obvious and is therefore considered to

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V

involve an inventive step.

There is no reason to doubt the industrial applicability of the claimed device.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The features of the claim/s are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 4, 7-11, 14 refer to two independent claims.

P a t e n t c l a i m s

1.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
5 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
10 customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which
compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator
device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication
15 device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence,
characterised in

that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:

- a serially generated transaction code,
- a randomly generated transaction code,
- 20 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
non-validated token; and

that the validated token is the non-validated token provided with the transaction code
through processing in the checkout unit, said device for providing the non-validated
25 token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which
a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof

2.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
30 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
35 customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which

compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence, characterised in

- 5 that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
 - a randomly generated transaction code,
 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
- 10 non-validated token; and

that the validated token is a substitute token for the non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the checkout unit from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens.

15

3.

A system as disclosed in claim 2, characterised in that said device for providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on

20 activation thereof.

4.

A system as disclosed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the non-validated token bears information that is related to the article type.

25

5.

A system as disclosed in claim 4, characterised in that the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label

30 readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code.

6.

A system as disclosed in claim 5, characterised in that the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of:

35 animation of the article, article name, article price, a unique token number.

7.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the transaction code provided on the validated token is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, a pre-programmed IC chip.

10 8.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-7; characterised in that communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- 15 - ultrasound transmission,
- electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission,
20 - transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

9.

- 25 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-8, characterised in that the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising an article type information scanner device, wherein the said scanner device is for communicating said information to the encoder device, the said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device
30 via said token encoder device, wherein the said token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the said encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a printer for the issue of the validated article token, and a device for transmitting said communication to the article dispensing device.

35

10.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-9,
characterised in

that the transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device
5 through machine reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the
group consisting of:

- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- 10 - an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader,
- an rf label code reader.

11.

15 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-10,
characterised in that the article dispensing device has a manually operated keypad,
keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable transaction code on the
validated token into the comparator unit.

20 12.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-11,
characterised in that the first transaction code which is communicated to the article
dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are
the same codes or codes that are related to each other, e.g., complementary codes,
25 symmetrical codes or unsymmetrical codes.

13.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 3, characterised in
that the selection panel is a touch screen.

30

14.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in
that the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be
dispensed.

35

15.

A system as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in
that transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout
unit applicable to the packaging, transmittable to the packaging, or is provided by
5 uncovering an area on the packaging that bears the transaction code.

TENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E29072 JFL/ANY	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> FOR FURTHER ACTION </div> <div style="width: 70%; font-size: small;"> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. </div> </div>	
International application No. PCT/NO 03/00067	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21 February 2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 February 2002
Applicant Vensafe ASA et al		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

- ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
- ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.
- ☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G07F 7/00, G07F 7/08 // G06F 153:00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G07F, G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3824544 A (L.G. SIMJIAN), 16 July 1974 (16.07.74), column 2, line 26 - column 4, line 59, figures 1-5	1-6
Y	--	7-14
Y	WO 9612254 A1 (MEKATRONIKK A/S), 25 April 1996 (25.04.96), page 5, line 26 - page 8, line 8, figure 1	1-14
Y	WO 9855968 A1 (AUTOMATION & MACHINE DEVELOPMENT PTY. LTD.), 10 December 1998 (10.12.98), page 7, line 30 - page 10, line 2, figures 1-2	1-14

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

04-06-2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Inger Löfving / MRo
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 9401838 A1 (MARKETING CONSULT NORD GMBH), 20 January 1994 (20.01.94), page 5, line 3 - page 8, line 24 --	13-14
Y	US 4767917 A (K. USHIKUBO), 30 August 1988 (30.08.88), column 3 - column 7, line 37 --	1-14
A	US 5431250 A (H. SCHLAMP), 11 July 1995 (11.07.95), column 2, line 37 - column 3, line 18, figures 1-2 -- -----	1-14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

29/04/03

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US	3824544	A	16/07/74	NONE	
WO	9612254	A1	25/04/96	AT 215717 T AU 3756595 A DE 69526239 D,T DK 786120 T EP 0786120 A,B SE 0786120 T3 ES 2173975 T NO 301447 B NO 943849 A PT 786120 T US 5902984 A	15/04/02 06/05/96 17/10/02 22/07/02 30/07/97 01/11/02 27/10/97 15/04/96 30/09/02 11/05/99
WO	9855968	A1	10/12/98	AU 7515098 A AU P0714997 D US 6393339 B	21/12/98 00/00/00 21/05/02
WO	9401838	A1	20/01/94	AU 4415693 A DE 4393100 D DE 9209229 U	31/01/94 00/00/00 18/11/93
US	4767917	A	30/08/88	GB 2172731 A,B GB 8606930 D HK 41989 A JP 1948716 C JP 6082427 B JP 61216095 A SG 15289 G	24/09/86 00/00/00 26/05/89 10/07/95 19/10/94 25/09/86 14/07/89
US	5431250	A	11/07/95	AT 150195 T DE 4217045 A,C DE 59305689 D DK 570913 T EP 0570913 A,B SE 0570913 T3 ES 2098587 T GR 3023712 T HK 1006198 A	15/03/97 25/11/93 00/00/00 08/09/97 24/11/93 01/05/97 30/09/97 00/00/00

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D MAY 2004

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E29072 JFL/JOB	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/NO2003/000067	International filing date (day/month/year) 21.02.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 22.02.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G07C 7/00, G07F 7/08 // G06F 153:00		
Applicant Vensafe ASA et al		

- This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:
 - ☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 11.09.2003	Date of completion of this report 29.04.2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 667 72 88	Authorized officer Inger Löfving / JA A Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☒ This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☒ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1 - 8 as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* 9 - 13 received by this Authority on 13.04.2004

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

pages 1 as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claimed invention relates to a system for sale of consumer goods, wherein the system comprises a device for providing a customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise.

Cited document in the International Search report of 26-5-2003:

D1: US 3824544 A
D2: WO 9612254 A1
D3: WO 9855968 A1
D4: WO 9401838 A1
D5: US 4767917 A
D6: US 5431250 A

The amended claim of date 13-04-2004 differs from all previously known documents in the fact that neither of them comprises the feature that a validated token is a non-validated token provided with a transaction code through processing in the checkout unit, said device for providing a non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof, or that the validated token is a substitute token issued by the checkout unit.

The system for sale of consumer goods differs from all relevant documents and is therefore considered to have novelty.

The invention is not obvious and is therefore considered to

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of: BOX V

involve an inventive step.

There is no reason to doubt the industrial applicability of
the claimed device.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The features of the claim/s are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000067

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 4, 7-11, 14 refer to two independent claims.

P a t e n t c l a i m s

1.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
5 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
10 transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which
compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator
15 device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication
device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence,
characterised in
that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
- a randomly generated transaction code,
20 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
non-validated token; and
that the validated token is the non-validated token provided with the transaction code
through processing in the checkout unit, said device for providing the non-validated
25 token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which
a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof

2.

A system for the sale of consumer goods, wherein the system is designed to provide a
30 customer with a non-validated token that represents an article of merchandise, wherein
the said article is to be paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the token in
checked by said unit, the said checkout unit having a device for communicating with an
article dispensing device and providing the article dispensing device with a first
transaction code after the article has been paid for, and a device for providing the
35 customer with a validated token which bears a second transaction code, wherein the said
validated token is to be used to obtain the purchased article from the article dispensing
device with the aid of a comparator device within the article dispensing device which

compares the transaction code on the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the transaction code which has been communicated by said communication device, and delivery of the article when there is a defined code correspondence, characterised in

- 5 that the validated token bears a transaction code selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
 - a randomly generated transaction code,
 - a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
 - a unique token number generated serially or randomly by a device which provides the
- 10 non-validated token; and

that the validated token is a substitute token for the non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the checkout unit from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens.

15

3.

A system as disclosed in claim 2, characterised in that said device for providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on

20 activation thereof.

4.

A system as disclosed in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the non-validated token bears information that is related to the article type.

25

5.

A system as disclosed in claim 4, characterised in that the article type information is selected from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label

30 readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code.

6.

A system as disclosed in claim 5, characterised in that the article type information is additionally selected from the group consisting of:

35 animation of the article, article name, article price, a unique token number.

7.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the transaction code provided on the validated token is selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, a pre-programmed IC chip.

10 8.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-7; characterised in that communication between the checkout unit and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- 15 - ultrasound transmission,
- electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission,
20 - transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

9.

- 25 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-8, characterised in that the checkout unit comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising an article type information scanner device, wherein the said scanner device is for communicating said information to the encoder device, the said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device
30 via said token encoder device, wherein the said token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the said encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a printer for the issue of the validated article token, and a device for transmitting said communication to the article dispensing device.

35

10.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-9,

characterised in

that the transaction code on the validated token is entered in the comparator device

5 through machine reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the group consisting of:

- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- 10 - an IC chip reader,
- a punched hole reader,
- an rf label code reader.

11.

15 A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-10,

characterised in that the article dispensing device has a manually operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

20 12.

A system as disclosed in any one of claims 1-11,

characterised in that the first transaction code which is communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are related to each other, e.g., complementary codes,

25 symmetrical codes or unsymmetrical codes.

13.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 3, characterised in that the selection panel is a touch screen.

30

14.

A system as disclosed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in

that the validated token is a part of or consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

35

15.

A system as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in
that transaction code on the validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout
unit applicable to the packaging, transmittable to the packaging, or is provided by
5 uncovering an area on the packaging that bears the transaction code.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G07F 7/00, G07F 7/08 // G06F 153:00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G07F, G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3824544 A (L.G. SIMJIAN), 16 July 1974 (16.07.74), column 2, line 26 - column 4, line 59, figures 1-5	1-6
Y	--	7-14
Y	WO 9612254 A1 (MEKATRONIKK A/S), 25 April 1996 (25.04.96), page 5, line 26 - page 8, line 8, figure 1	1-14
Y	WO 9855968 A1 (AUTOMATION & MACHINE DEVELOPMENT PTY. LTD.), 10 December 1998 (10.12.98), page 7, line 30 - page 10, line 2, figures 1-2	1-14

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "B" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

04-06-2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 9401838 A1 (MARKETING CONSULT NORD GMBH), 20 January 1994 (20.01.94), page 5, line 3 - page 8, line 24 --	13-14
Y	US 4767917 A (K. USHIKUBO), 30 August 1988 (30.08.88), column 3 - column 7, line 37 --	1-14
A	US 5431250 A (H. SCHLAMP), 11 July 1995 (11.07.95), column 2, line 37. - column 3, line 18, figures 1-2 -- -----	1-14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

29/04/03

International application No.

PCT/NO 03/00067

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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